

Korea Family Readiness Groups





FRG Mission



To assist Commanders in maintaining readiness of Soldiers, families and communities within the military by promoting self-sufficiency, resilience, and stability during war and peace.



Agenda

- **This is Korea**
- **Paradigm Shift**
- **Eighth Army's Approach**
- **Challenges**
- **CONUS Support**
- **Conclusion**





This is Korea

- **Widely dispersed units**
- **30 km from North Korea, under the guns everyday**
 - Evacuation of family members
 - Family Readiness is mission imperative
- **92% unaccompanied / 8% accompanied**
 - 22,000 Army personnel and approximately 6,600 family members (3,900 Command Sponsored & 2,700 non-command sponsored)
- **Limited support infrastructure (Medical/Schools)**
- **Demographics**
 - Command Sponsored / Non-Command Sponsored families / Waiting Families
 - ALL families are part of FRG
 - Foreign born spouses support



Paradigm Shift

Then

- FRG “not necessary”
- Forward Deployed
- North Korea threat focus
- 38,000 military
- 1-year tour
- Substandard living and working conditions
- Limited Housing Allowance (no COLA)
- Turbulence in Korea
- Least desirable assignment in the Army

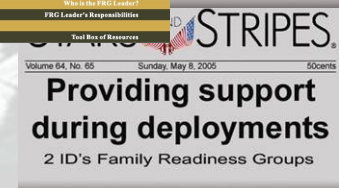
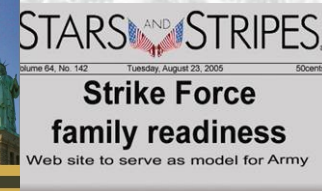
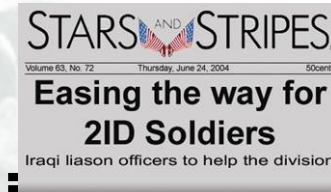
Now

- FRG (imperative)
- Deploy from Korea
- nK + GSAVE focus
- 22,000 military
- Extended tour
- Improved infrastructure / QOL
- Full Overseas Housing Allowance (COLA)
- Stability in Korea
- The “Assignment of Choice”



Eighth Army's Approach

- FRGs in Korea are NOT optional
- Leverage Technology
 - Established 8th Army FRG website
 - Extensive use of e-mail and vFRG to connect with families in Korea, in CONUS and around the world
 - Utilize automated In/Out processing system to capture family information for FRG/ACC
- Institutionalize semi-annual FRG Rallies
- Maintain Active Family Support Program
- Create FRG Quickstart Guide
- Payoff: 2BCT deployment
 - Created vFRG site
 - Negotiated SOFA for families
 - Established four FRG/Deployment assistance positions





Challenges

- **Transformation / Restationing**
 - Unit moves/relocation between areas
 - Consolidation of US Forces
 - Troop Reduction
 - Rotational Forces
- **TRICARE Standard vs. Prime**
- **OIF/OEF Deployments**
- **Connection to Waiting Families Program**





CONUS Support: We need your help

- **Energize the Waiting Families Program - ACS**
- **Educate incoming commanders and spouses that FRGs are part of their mission in Korea**
- **Inform Soldiers and families on assignment to Korea about entitlements, challenges and support programs available**
- **Leaders at all levels emphasize the positive aspects of service in Korea**



Conclusion

- Korea “Assignment of Choice” for family members
- Everyone important to the Soldier is a part of the FRG - worldwide
- FRGs are vital to mission readiness



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